9th March 1959]

APPENDIX IV.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 659-F asked by Sri M. Selvaraj (on behalf of Sri V. Sankaran) at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 9th March 1959, page 539 supra.]

Under the scheme for the development of Major reservoir fisheries, the development of fisheries in the reservoirs is taken up by the Fisheries Department as soon as the constructions of Dams by the Public Works Department are over.

2. Accordingly, during the first year of the Second Five-Year Plan period, the development of the Amaravathi and Bhavanisagar reservoirs was taken up and during 1958–59 the reservoirs at Sathanur and Manimuthar have been taken up for development.

3. The Vaigai Reservoir Dam in Madurai district is expected to be completed by December 1959. The water spread after the completion of the dam will be about 9·34 square miles and maximum depth, about 110 feet. The Director of Fisheries has proposed the establishment of a fish farm by the side of the reservoir including 4 or 5 fish ponds and nursery ponds. The fish farm to be constructed is for stocking the fingerlings of quick-growing carps and after they attain sufficient growth they will be let into the reservoir. The stocking of the reservoir has already been commenced. During 1958–59 a quantity of 41,892 fingerlings have been stocked up to the end of December 1958. The fingerlings have been transported from the collection centres.

4. The Vaigai Reservoir and Vaigai-Periar Main Channel and the new supply channel (now under construction) in Tirumangalam taluk and their branches and all important tanks fed by the Vaigai Irrigation system, is proposed to be provincialised and then stocked judiciously. The reservoir after intensive development, would be able to supply fish to the surrounding areas and the City of Madurai. The fingerlings will in course of time migrate to the regions above and below the reservoir and spread out to all water sources connected with the river system. The stocking has to be done at least for a period of four years by which time it is expected that the species stocked in the reservoirs will breed to establish themselves. When once they are established, the exploitation of the reservoir will be done continuously followed up by periodical stocking.